

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 012316
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 MC-02
NSC-05 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /061 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:WROBINSON
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:HAHOLMES
PM/ISP:TMATHISON
OSD/ISA:MGEN BOWMAN
EUR/CE:KKURZE

-----190207Z 088092 /73

O P 190107Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE
INFO USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012316

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, US, GW

SUBJECT: US-FRG TANK HARMONIZATION

REF: STATE 007217, DTG 122305Z

1. FURTHER TO REFTTEL, THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY RELEASED
THE FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT ON JANUARY 18: BEGIN TEXT.

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY MARTIN R. HOFFMANN TODAY STATED THAT
THE AGREEMENT RECENTLY MADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY LIMITS THE US EVALUATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 012316

OF THE FRG LEOPARD 2 MAIN BATTLE TANK.

THIS EVALUATION OF THE LEOPARD 2 WILL BE LIMITED TO THE
SUBSYSTEMS DEFINED IN ADDENDUM 1, PARA VI(1) TO THE MEMO-
RANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF JULY 28, 1976. THESE SUBSYSTEMS
INCLUDE THE ENGINE, TRANSMISSION, TRACK, FUEL, FIRE CONTROL,
NIGHT VISION DEVICE, GUNNERS TELESCOPE AND CRITICAL

FASTENERS AS WELL AS THE 120MM GUN, A DECISION ON WHICH WAS DELAYED UNTIL ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 30, 1977.

AS THE US IS NOW NO LONGER REQUIRED TO SPEND THE TIME AND RESOURCES NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH A SYSTEM SOURCE

SELECTION, FUTURE EFFORTS WILL BE FOCUSED ON ACHIEVING SUBSYSTEM STANDARDIZATION AND SYSTEM INTEROPERABILITY.

A LEOPARD 2 COST AND TECHNICAL EVALUATION BOARD WILL BE CONVENED TO PERFORM A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF SUBSYSTEMS WITH EMPHASIS ON THOSE IDENTIFIED IN ADDENDUM 1 IDENTIFY OTHER POTENTIAL AREAS OF SUBSYSTEM HARMONIZATION NOT IDENTIFIED IN ADDENDUM 1, AND PREPARE A REPORT OF EVALUATION TO INCLUDE A FORMAL SYBSYSTEM STANDARDIZATION PLAN.

END TEXT.

2. ADDITIONALLY, THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT RESULTING FROM JANUARY 11 AND 12 BONN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY HOFFMAN, MOD LEBER AND STATE SECRETARY SCHNELL IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

BEGIN TEXT

ADDITION TO ADDENDUM 1

TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNITED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 012316

STATES OF AMERICA REPRESENTED BY THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
REPRESENTED BY THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CONCERNING
THE HARMONIZATION OF THE US TANK XM-1 AND THE FRG TANK
LEOPARD 2 DATED JULY 28, 1976

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY CONFIRMED THEIR INTENTION TO SEEK THE GREATEST POSSIBLE COMMONALITY IN THEIR RESPECTIVE TANK PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPIRIT OF AND AS AGREED IN THE ADDENDUM DATED 28 JULY 1976. THE FRG RECOGNIZES THAT THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY (USDA) IS NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE A DEFINITE DECISION ON A 120MM MAIN TANK GUN ON JANUARY 15, 1977. ACCORDINGLY, THE DATE FOR THE USDA DECISION WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 30, 1977. THE USDA WILL SEEK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR FUNDING TO PERMIT FURTHER TESTING AND EVALUATION OF TANK MAIN ARMAMENT DURING 1977. THE USDA TAKES NOTE THAT THE FEDERAL GERMAN GOVERNMENT MUST SUBMIT TO

ITS PARLIAMENT IN MARCH OF 1977 APPROPRIATE PROPOSALS TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATION FOR REPLACEMENT OF ITS TANK INVENTORY. IN DOING SO, THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WILL PROPOSE A SMOOTHBORE 120MM GUN IN PURSUANCE OF THE ADDENDUM OF JULY 1976 AND IN ANTICIPATION OF A LATER AGREEMENT THAT WOULD ADVANCE MUTUAL GOALS OF STANDARDIZATION.

THE USDA AND THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (FMOD) OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAVING ENTERED INTO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND ADDENDUM 1 THERETO CONCERNING THE HARMONIZATION AND STANDARDIZATION OF THE US TANK XM-1 AND THE FRG TANK LEOPARD 2, AND RECOGNIZING THE PROGRESS MADE TO DATE, AGREE THAT THE PRESENT EVALUATIONS WILL BE LIMITED TO THE SUBSYSTEMS DEFINED IN ADDENDUM 1, PARAGRAPH VI(1).

AS THE TWO TANK PROGRAMS PROGRESS, BOTH FMOD AND USDA
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 012316

WILL CONSIDER THESE AND OTHER ITEMS IN A CONTINUING PROGRAM OF STANDARDIZATION.

-- BONN, JANUARY 12, 1977

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
MARTIN R. HOFFMANN
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

FOR THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF DEFENSE
DR. KARL SCHNELL
STATE SECRETARY

END TEXT.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. FYI - FOR BONN: ABOVE TEXTS CLEARLY IMPLY THAT LEOPARD 2 IS NO LONGER UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR US XM-1 TANK REQUIREMENT WITH THE FOCUS SOLELY ON STANDARDIZATION OF SUBSYSTEMS. THERE MAY BE SENSITIVITY ON THE PART OF THE GERMAN MOD TO POSSIBLE PUBLIC PERCEPTION THAT US ARMY HAS REJECTED LEOPARD 2 SINCE PROGRAM GOES BEFORE BUNDESTAG NEXT MONTH. REQUEST EMBASSY VIEWS ON POSSIBLE FRG REACTIONS.

4. FOR ANATO: IN RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE PRESS SPECULATIONS EMBASSIES SHOULD AVOID COMMENT. END FYI. END CONFIDENTIAL.

KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE012316
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WROBINSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770019-0150
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770136/aaaabfqj.tel
Line Count: 168
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 11dea2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 7217
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3557034
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-FRG TANK HARMONIZATION
TAGS: MPOL, US, GE, NATO, (HOFFMANN, MARTIN R)
To: NATO POSTS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/11dea2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009